

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 AID-05 SCCT-01 SY-05 FBO-02

A-01 OPR-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 OC-05 CCO-00 PER-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USSS-00 /106 W

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P 141210Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3816

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

USSAG NKP

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 3347

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LA

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATION IN LUANG PRABANG, US OFFICIALS FORCED
TO LEAVE

1. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT FROM USIS LOCAL SUPPLEMENTS EARLIER
REPORTING ON MAY 14 DEMONSTRATION IN LP:
A PROTEST, INVOLVING STUDENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS, BEGAN
EARLY THIS MORNING IN LUANG PRABANG. SUBSEQUENT TO A NUMBER
OF SPEECHES THAT INCLUDED DEMANDS FOR THE REMOVAL OF
GOVERNOR, THE PROTESTORS BROKE OFF INTO TWO GROUPS, ONE
GOING TO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE AND SECOND TO USAID. (THE RADIO
STATION WAS SEIZED ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT CLEAR AT WHAT POINT.)

2. USIS LOCAL FOLLOWED GROUP GOING TO USAID AND, ALTHOUGH
HE WAS KNOWN TO SOME IN GROUP, THERE WERE NO ATTEMPTS
TO HARM HIM OR ANY OTHER LAO. HE DID, HOWEVER, HEAR TALK
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THAT THEY MIGHT HURT ANY AMERICANS THEY FOUND.

3. AT USAID PROTESTORS BROKE WINDOWS, TORE PAPERS AND IN LOCAL EMPLOYEE'S WORDS "DESTROYED EVERYTHING". HOWEVER, THEY COULD NOT ENTER A NUMBER OF ROOMS, INCLUDING USIS ROOM, THUS DESTRUCTION WAS CONFINED TO OUTER OFFICES.

4. DURING AFTERNOON GROUP WENT TO SEE PREFECT WITH DEMANDS RELATING TO ECONOMIC SITUATION. THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO MEET WITH PREFECT AGIN MAY 15 TO DISCUSS SALE OF COMMODITIES, INCLUDING RICE, THAT PROTESTERS HAVE SEIZED. (PREFECT HAS APPARENTLY AGREED TO PROTESTERS' DEMANDS AND ONLY MECHANICS OF THEIR IMPLEMENTATION REMAIN TO BE DISCUSSED.)

5. GOODS MENTIONED ABOVE WERE, AND ARE, BEING TAKEN FROM SHOPS; PROTESTERS ARE ENTERING STORES, BREAKING SOME WINDOWS, AND SEARCHING FOR HOARDED GOODS. THEY APPARENTLY HAVE SEIZED SOME RICE, AND USIS LOCAL SAYS THEY ARE ALSO TAKING COMMODITIES OF VALUE.

6. LAO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AS OF 1420 HOURS HAD NOT BEEN DAMAGED. USIS LOCAL SAYS THAT MARCHERS CONSIDER LAA AN EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION UNDER THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND, BECAUSE IT WAS BEING RUN BY LAO, IT WAS NOT TOUCHED.

7. ALL AMERICANS EMPLOYED BY USG HAVE NOW LEFT LUANG PRABANG, THE ONLY RESIDENT AMERICAN LEFT IS TRAVEL AGENT LARRY RATZ, WHO DECLINED OFFER OF USG TRANSPORTATION OUT OF TOWN. DEMONSTRATORS ARE SUPPOSEDLY LOOKING FOR RATZ AND HAVE TORN DOWN HIS OFFICE SIGN.

8. AS OF 1730 HOURS, SAME LOCAL REPORTS CITY RELATIVELY CALM AND DEMONSTRATORS CONTINUING TO TAKE GOODS FROM SHOPS. HOWEVER, HE HAS HEARD BROADCAST OVER LP RADIO STATION CALLING FOR ABOLITION OF USAID AND USIS IN THE CITY.
CHAPMAN

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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